

Hi Fans!

In response to the overwhelming concern regarding Karen's health, I am happy to confirm she has responded well to the rest and medication prescribed by her doctors, and is steadily regaining weight, (present reading 104lbs.) The good wishes of so many loyal fans, combined with our beautiful California weather, have been the main contributory factors to her recuperation. Karen has asked me to convey her heartfelt gratitude to you all for the get-well cards, and numerous kind messages, which have brought her so much pleasure and comfort. Contrary to unfounded reports you may have read in various magazines, please be assured there is no truth in the rumor that Karen is a victim of cancer. Coupled with severe physical and mental exhaustion, due to overwork, dieting and lack of rest, she developed Colitis (i.e. inflammation of the colon.) Her collapse was inevitable after the rigorous schedule of the past summer months, and her willing spirit was eventually dominated by mother nature who compelled her to take a well deserved rest. Thank God she exudes her vivacious, happy personality once again. We are indeed thankful that Richard has managed to sustain sufficient stamina to withstand the extra pressures derived from Karen's illness. It was with deep regret that the European tour was cancelled on doctor's advice, specially having been honored to be selected to perform in the presence of the Queen at the Royal Command Variety Performance in London. Richard flew to London with John Bettis to apologize to the fans and promoters for the cancellation, via the media of television, radio and newspapers, (a gesture held in high esteem by the thousands of disappointed fans from all the countries affected.) The Japanese tour has been rescheduled to commence March 15, 1976. At time of writing, I have no date to confirm for the European tour, but it is anticipated to be some time in the fall of 1976. Needless to say, Richard has wasted no time during Karen's recuperation period. He and John Bettis have been working on some new material, and I am delighted to report that a new single is in the making, and a new album is expected to be released some time in the Spring. No title for either is evident as yet, but I will keep you updated on same. Karen and Richard's dearest wish, is to produce a Christmas album, as Christmas has a very special meaning to them. Alas, time has not permitted them to realize their ambition this year, but 'we can dream can't we' until next year! To all 9-5 workers! I suggest you sneak your portable t.v. to work, and tune in to Dinah Shore's afternoon program where you will find a 90 minute Tribute to none other than "The Carpenters!" The tentative date is set for January 19, 1976, but please check your t.v. guide for confirmation. Karen and Richard are busy preparing a completely new show for the road, and discussing the 1976 schedule under the guidance of Terry Ellis who is helping them for the time being. They are also planning possible t.v. shows, and should they transpire, some of the U.S. tours would be automatically curtailed. Karen's health must take first priority in this deciding factor. The Sahara/Tahoe shows are to be staged as previously planned for December 27, 1975 thru January 4, 1976 with the exception of New Year's Eve. Karen and Richard enjoyed a very happy Thanksgiving which was extra special for them this year, being the first time they were able to celebrate it at home with their family and friends since the beginning of their career. Mom cooked a huge turkey with all the trimmings, and a good time was had by all.

Richard's birthday was also a significant occasion. You will remember that his Lincoln Continental was stolen some months back. Recently, without his knowledge, a notification arrived in the mail, advising that it had been found, and could be claimed via the usual channels. Mom and Dad's immediate reaction was one of hesitancy. They feared it would have been stripped beyond recognition. Upon reflection, knowing how Richard had felt about losing his 'pride and joy' they decided to have it in working order for his birthday. They were pleasantly surprised to find the car in much better condition than they had anticipated. A few minor details were corrected, and the stolen wheels replaced. It was then surreptitiously delivered to the garage of the Carpenters home to await it's rightful owner. It was a superb day, near 90° and not a cloud in the sky. Finally the moment had arrived. Richard came to visit his family and join them for dinner later. By this time, Mom, Dad and a few close friends had gathered inside the garage, whilst Karen escorted him in the same direction, handing him the key of the 'door'. As you can imagine, his face was a picture, a mixture of amazement, intrigue and excitement. He walked around the car at least six times, examining various details, when he suddenly realized it was his original car, and he was ecstatic and embraced the 'grand old lady' like a long lost friend. It was a very emotional moment, and his family derived so much pleasure from his reaction. He was enthralled and completely overwhelmed. The dinner party was a grand finale to a perfect day. He and Dad wish to convey their very grateful thanks for all the lovely cards, and a special vote of thanks for the extra effort, time and thought behind those hand-made cards. For those who may be interested in obtaining Carpenters Albums from Japan, a fan kindly supplied the following information. Personal checks, and cashiers checks in U.S. currency, will be accepted by King Record Co; Ltd, No.12, 2-chome Otowa, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, Japan. "Carpenters Golden Prize"(vol.1) \$6.14 plus \$3.85 postage, "Carpenters Golden Prize"(vol.2) \$6.14 plus \$3.85 postage, "Carpenters Live In Japan" \$9.10 plus \$6.00 postage. The latter is a double album. I would like to remind all fans that they do not have to pay any further membership dues once they have joined our fanclub. I have to advise you that Mr Sherwin Bash is no longer employed as Manager for The Carpenters. Over the past few years, Richard and Karen have experienced conflicting opinions regarding amnagement philosophy. In view of this, and to avoid undue friction, they agreed to sever business associations on amicable terms. I am pleased to report that Tony "Happy" Peluso is making satisfactory progress from a broken leg he sustained in a recent motorbike accident. As Christmas draws near, the Carpenters home looks magnificent in all it's festive glory, specially the illuminated exterior. Once again Frank has spent countless hours decorating the interior also, paying meticulous attention to synchronizing lights etc. His efforts are well rewarded judging by the adulations of passers by. Truly a picturesque work of art.

Karen, Richard, Mom and Dad, will be joined by their family from back east for the Holidays. They, the group, fanclub staff and yours truly, extend warm wishes to you all for a very Happy, Peaceful and Safe Christmas, and thank you for your continued interest and support.

Rap next year.

Ev.